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Nick Hughes Selected 2016 State School Counselor of the Year

By Kirk McCracken Managing Editor Nov 27, 2015



Nick Hughes, left, elementary school counselor at Limestone Academy in Sand Springs, is presented with the School Counselor of the Year award with Ms. Rebecca Barry, President of the Oklahoma School Counselor Association. Kirk Mccracken/ Leader

ALEXANDRIA, Va. — Sand Springs counselor Nick Hughes was recently named the Oklahoma State School Counselor of the Year for the 2016 program.

The award was presented to Hughes by the American School Counselor Association (ASCA). The School Counselor of the Year program honors the professionals who devote their careers to serving as advocates for the nation's students, helping them achieve success in school and in life.

Hughes, who has been a counselor at Limestone Academy for four years, said that he was surprised to even receive the nomination back in July.

“I was sitting at my desk and got an e-mail saying that I had been nominated and it kind of set me back a little bit,” he said. “I really didn’t know what to say about it, so in doing a little bit of research on the process of it, because it is new to me, I decided that it would be worthwhile to complete the application and just see where it ended up.”

It was a wise choice because it ended in being named the state’s counselor of the year.

He is being specifically recognized for his utilization of social media to enhance his data-driven counseling program.

Nominations for the School Counselor of the Year awards program were submitted by the state school counselor associations. State representatives were selected based on several criteria, including: school counseling innovations, effective school counseling programs, leadership and advocacy skills and contributions to student advancement.

School counselors make significant contributions to the overall well-being of students and their success,” said Richard Wong, Ed.D. executive director, American School Counselor Association. “They have unique qualifications and skills that allow them to address students’ academic achievement, career development and social/emotional needs.”

The state representatives will travel to Washington, D.C., in January 2016 to be honored in a ceremony at the White House and be formally recognized at a black-tie gala at historic Union Station.

About the American School Counselor Association

The American School Counselor Association (ASCA) is a nonprofit, 501©(3) professional organization based in Alexandria, Va. ASCA promotes student success by expanding the image and influence of professional school counseling through leadership, advocacy, collaboration and systemic change. ASCA helps school counselors guide their students toward academic achievement, career planning and social/emotional development to help today’s students become tomorrow’s productive, contributing members of society. Founded in 1952, ASCA currently has a network of 50 state associations and a membership of approximately 30,000 school counseling professionals. For additional information on the American School Counselor Association, visit www.schoolcounselor.org.

